

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

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## SURVEY INDICATES ANOTHER FAVORABLE NESTING YEAR FOR WATERFOWL

Waterfowl habitat conditions almost as favorable as last year are being reported to the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service from an extensive air and ground survey of nesting areas in the United States and Canada.

Duck populations appear about the same as in 1971, which was considered a relatively good production year. Temperatures have been moderate and the nesting season is underway earlier than usual.

Exceptions to the "generally favorable" diagnosis are reported in southern Alberta and west central Saskatchewan, important breeding areas now dry from lack of rain. Wet conditions suitable for nesting prevail in western Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana.

The "prairie pothole" country--the Dakotas, western Minnesota, eastern Montana, much of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba--is often called North America's "duck factory." The potholes are glacier-formed ponds and lakes which, with the right combination of snow and rainfall, are ideal duck nesting sites.

A second survey, in July, will reveal summer water conditions and the probable size of the 1972 duck hatch. These surveys provide basic data upon which the Nation's fall waterfowl hunting regulations will be based.

Participating in the surveys are the Canadian Wildlife Service and State and Provincial game agencies.

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